SHRI ARUN SINGH: Once in two years was intended to mean calendar years. From 1953 to 1981, this committee has met fairly regularly, except during 1970-1979 when only one meeting was held. The Member's suggestion is definitely noted and we will ensure that this committee meets regularly and all problems are taken care of.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I would like to know whether any criterion has been laid down for meeting of this committee, and if not, what other criterion you are going to have.

SHRI ARUN SINGH: This is a non-statutory committee. It has, therefore, no criterion so far meetings are concerned. However, this is a committee to look after the Terriotorial Army and as I have already said, Member's suggestion has been noted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Guidelines for Change of Cadre by Women Officers if the All India Services

*447. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued certain guidelines for granting cadre changes for women officers of the All India Services; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines issued to ensure that the spouses work in the same area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Guidelines for change of cadre by women officers of the All India Services

The Government have issued guidelines on 3rd April, 1986 which, *inter-alia*, cover the following categories of members of the All India Services:—

(i) Where the spouses belong to different cadres of the same All India Service or two of the All India Services, namely, I.A.S., I.P.S., and I.F.S.

One spouse will be transferred to the cadre of the other spouse subject to the condition that the spouse concerned does not ordinarily get transferred to his/her home state. Where either of the spouses is in the process likely to get transferred to his/her home state, cadre change for both the spouses is considered for a third state;

(ii) Where one spouse belong to one of the All India Services and the other spouse belong to one of the Central Services;

The Cadre controlling authority of the Central Service may post the officer to the station, or if there is no post in that station, to the State where the other spouse belonging to All India Service is posted.

(iii) where one spouse belongs to an All India Service and the other spouse belongs to a Public Sector Undertakings;

The spouse employed under the Public Sector Undertakings may apply to the competent authority and the said authority may post the said officer to the station, or if there is no post under the PSU in that station, to the State where the other spouse is posted.

State Governments have also been requested to consider the desirability of issuing similar guidelines in respect of their employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subas Mohanty.

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: I have no supplementaries to ask.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, from the answer of the hon. Minister, I find that only in regard to the All India Services, there is an embargo on being posted to the home State. Is there any reason for such an embargo? Secondly, if there is no reason, why the same embargo has not been extended to the Central Services and all the public sector undertakings?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is only the three All India Services which have State cadres, the I.A.S., the I.P.S. and the Indian Forest Service. Appointments to these cadres are made on the basis of insider outsider ratio of 1:2. The Central Services do not have any such State cadres. Therefore, the question of an officer being

posted to his or her home State does not arise. The reason is because by obtaining an inter-cadre transfer, we do not want an officer to go back to his or her home State affecting the original allocation on insider-outsider ratio.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the statement, it has been mentioned "State Governments have also been requested to consider the desirability of issuing similar guidelines in respect of their employees". I would like to know when this request was made and what is the response of the State Governments to your circular?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the request was made to the State Governments by a letter dated 8th August, 1986. We do not yet have any response from the State Governments. But we know that some State Governments, even before we issued these orders, have issued guidelines. For example, I know the Tamil Nadu Government have some guidelines. But we have not yet received any officially formulated guidelines in response to our letter.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : सभापति महोदय, इस सवाल के जवाब में सिर्फ उन के बारे में बताया गया है कि जो विवाहित हैं। लेकिन जो अविवाहित लड़कियां हैं और आई०ए०एस०, आई०पी०एस० या आई०एफ०एस० में हैं, वह अगर स्टेट कैडर में अपने को ट्रांसफर कराना चाहती हैं तो उसके लिये क्या उपाय हैं ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are not encouraging inter-cadre change. In fact, we want everyone to feel and believe that he or she can work in any part of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 448. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. If you do not go back to your seat, I will not allow you to put your question.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes, Sir. Question No. 448.

Professionals and Technocrats in Top Positions in Ministries

*448. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:†
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 28th September, 1986 regarding the replacement of the professional Secretary of the Petrochemicals Department with an IAS officer;

(b) whether similar action was also taken recently in the Ministry of Agriculture, consequent to the resignation of a top technocrat who left to take up an international assignment in Manila; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to clarify its policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government are aware of the news item referred to in part (a) of the question.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture had a technocrat as Secretary from 31-3-1979 to 3-4-1980. Since then the post has been held by non-technocrats. The technocrat Secretary was elevated to the post of Member, Planning Commission in April 1980, from where he went over to an international assignment at Manila.

(c) Appointments to senior posts in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are normally made from various organised Services. For posts at the senior levels, outstanding scientists, technocrat, economists etc. are also considered keeping in view the specific requirements of such posts and the experience and qualifications of persons available in the field of choice. Most of the Ministries/Departments which are predominently of a technical charcter already have technocrats at the senior levels. Moreover, senior posts included in the various professional cadres of organised Services are filled by Members of the respective professional/

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

technical Services. No changes are contemplated in this policy.

The appointments referred to in parts (a) and (b) of the question were made in accordance with the aforesaid policy.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has a list of topnotch assignments which have been given to technocrats in actualy? I would like to know whether this policy is being implemented properly?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have a list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to hear your voice again.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I would like to know whether he has a list of top posts which are occupied by technocrats or is it that only non-professionals are sitting in the place of technocrats?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have a list and if the hon. Member wants to know about any particular ... (*Interruption*) I am giving the answer. At the Secretary level there are 101 posts in the Centre. 27 are held by technocrats. If the hon. Member wants to know about any particular department or post, I am willing to give the information. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. (*Interruptions*). Hon. Members are not allowed to prompt other members.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, not, I could not hear in the noise of the House. I want to know whether Minister will consider ... (*Interruptions*). Will you encourage the professionals and other Administrative Officers to take up the posts of technocrats more and more?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the hon. Member is referring to the officers belonging to the Indian Administrative Service, we have now instituted a very extensive training and refresher programme. We are imparting specialised skills to these officers so that they could specialise themselves in certain areas. Now, at that level it is not possible to make a general Administrative Officer into a technocrat, within the strict meaning of the word 'technocrat', but we hope to make him a bettter manager in that technical or specialised field. And if he is suitable for that field, he will be considered for appointement to that department or Ministry.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति जी, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार ने कभी यह इवैल्युएशन करवाया है कि उद्योग धंधों से संबंधित मंत्रालयों में टेक्नोक्रेट के रखने से अच्छा काम चलता है या आई० ए० एस० को रखने से अच्छा काम चलता है ? अगर आपने इवैल्युएशन करवाया है तो उसका क्या परिणाम है और अगर नहीं करवाया है तो क्या सरकार ऐसा इवैल्युएशन करवाने का विचार करेगी ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am not aware of any evaluation made whether a technocrat or a non-technocrat would be better in the department of industry or in similar departments. I know that in the department of industry, for example, both technocrats and non-technocrats have held assignments at different times, but I am not aware of any evaluation having been made.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The seond part of my question is not answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Question.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : All right. Does the Government propose to do such evaluation in future? Sir, you should help us. There is a big agitation going on in the country about technocrats vs. Generalists and we should know who is performing better.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, I help Mr. Chaturanan Mishra. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We will consider this suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will consider the suggestion.

Next question.

Prossession of Wireless Sets by the Indian Red Cross Society

*449. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:†

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any organisation, other than the Government/Semi-Government organisations, has been allowed to keep wireless sets;

(b) whether any action is proposed to be taken against the Indian Red Cross Society (Hqrs.), New Delhi, for keeping wireless sets of 'foreign make' without licence, in contravention of the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Telegraph Act, as reported in 'the Statesman' of 3rd November, 1986;

(c) whether some of the sets were deployed during the IX Asiad on temporary licences and that the information of their deployment was neither furnished nor it was in the knowledge of Government;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been instituted against the Red Cross or the officials in the Communications Ministry who are involved in this matter; and

(e) whether Government propose to ensure that any such wireless set is not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Private organisations are also allowed by way of a licence to keep wireless sets for specific purposes.

(b) No, Sir. The Indian Red Cross Society had filed applications and deposited the requisite fee for renewal of their licence which got delayed because of non-receipt of their deployment plan. Necessary licence has since been issued on obtaining the facts from the Society and its due verification.

(c) Some of the sets of the Indian Red Cross Society during the IX Asiad were deployed with prior knowledge and approval of Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Monitoring Organisation monitors compliance of the licensing conditions and operating parameters.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : No supplementary.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : The Indian Red Cross Society is an organisation to serve the poor people in times of need and it has got international obligations also. Why should it possess wireless sets of foreign make? This is something very intriguing. I request the hon. Minister to think about this particular situation.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, Indian Red Cross is a philanthropic organisation. Generally unless we get the operating area, we do not give a licence. They work in the case of calamities; that is why as a special case, they have been given storage licence and when an occasion arises—of drought or calamity—they apply for actual area and then we allow the actual licence for the area concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You want to supplement it? Since you have got some instruction. I thought you may like to..

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, the senior and junior Ministers should sit together; otherwise there will be problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no control over where they sit. Next question No. 450. Shri Aruna. Absent.

*450. [*The questioner* (*Shri Aladi* Aruna *alias* V. Arunachalam) was absent. For answer, vide *col.* 34 infra.]

News Coverage of Political Parties

*451. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total time of news coverage given to the ruling party at the

†The question, was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

Centre in the Doordarshan and the All India Radio from 1st March to 31st October, 1986; and

(b) what was the total time of coverage of news given to the other six recognised national political parties during the said period in the Doordarshan and the All India Radio ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Stations in the network of AIR put out nearly 180 news bulletins in different languages and dialects everyday in the Home Service. Similarly, Doordarshan Kendras telecast news bulletins in the concerned regional languages. The time devoted in those news bulletins to different political parties is not kept centrally in a compiled form.

The coverages put out by AIR in its three major central English bulletins at 0810 hours, 1400 hrs. and 2100 hrs. during September and October, 1986 in respect of the ruling party Congress (I) were 105 lines in September, 1986 and 240 lines in October, 1986. In respect of the six recognised national political parties, CPI(M), CPI, Congress (S), Janata Party, Lok Dal, B.J.P., the coverage during September, 1986 was 301 lines and in October, 1986, 369 lines.

As regards Doordarshan, the coverage given to Congress (I) in the national news telecast from Delhi from March to October, 1986 was 88.40 minutes. The coverage given to the 6 national political parties was 121.00 minutes.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, मेरी पहली आपत्ति यह है कि मेरा जो प्रश्न है उसका उत्तर नहीं मिला । क्या मंत्री जी प्रश्न देखने की कोशिश करेंगे— My Question was:

(a) what was the total time of new coverages given to the ruling party at the Centre in the Doordarshan and the All India Radio from March to 21st October, 1986; and

(b) what was the total time of coverage of news given to the other six recognised national political parties during the said period in the Doordarshan and the All India Radio?

Sir, my question did not relate to any particular language or any other national language. But the reply is confined only to the English bulletins at 0810 hours, 1400 hours and 2100 hours. Therefore my submission is that the Minister has not been pleased to reply to my question.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is misleading.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: He is misleading the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you said he is not leading the House.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: Are you sure you are not misleading the House?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Am I correct, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to give judgement.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Now so far as All India Radio is concerned, there are news bulletins..

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let him give the reply first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malaviya, you put your supplementary. Along with that the Minister will reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, he wanted specific information about the total time of new coverage given to certain political parties. But the Minister has not given that. How can he frame his supplementary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will include that as one of the points which the Minister will have to answer.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, my supplementary is that the Minister has replied that so far as AIR

as concerned, the three major central English bulletins are at 0810 hours, 2 p.m. and 9 P.M. But there are national bulletins in our official language i.e. the national language Hindi, also in Sanskrit and Urdu The Hindi news bulletins are broadcast at 6 A.M. then at 8 (.M., 2-10 P.M., 6-05 P.M., 8-05 $.M. and there is also English bulletin at 11 P.M., which the Minister has forgotten to include in his reply. Then at 11.05 P.M. in Hindi, at 9-15 P.M. in Urdu and at 6-05 P.M. in Sanskrit. My question is what is the total time of coverage relating to news about the ruling party as well as the other six recognised political parties in these bulletins?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, the hon. Member is not right in saying that the answer is not given properly. There are two differences, you must have marked in the statement. So, far as All India Radio is concerned, they compile it on line form; so far as Doordarshan is concerned, they keep it on time form. So I have stated that the time devoted in these news bulletins to different political parties is not kept centrally in a compiled form, that is, in All India Radio. The coverage given in All India Radio for Congress (I) was 105 lines in September. 1986.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That you have already replied. That is not my question. That is already in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I am now dealing with the charge portion, that it is not given correctly. The timing of Doordarshan is given here. So far as parties are concerned, I have given. The question is together—all other parties besides the ruling party. For Doordarshan I have given the time.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I asked about All India Radio. My supplementary is about All India Radio, not about Doordarshan.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I think the Member has not read his own question. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The subconscious mind acts there.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the Member has not read his own question. "What was the total time of news coverage given to the ruling party at the Centre in the Doordarshan and the All India Radio?" Not that it is only about All India Radio. So, the time compilation of AIR is not kept. It is regarding the lines. So far as Doordarshan is concerned, the time is kept and I have given it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, I will repeat my question because the Minister has not replied to my question ... *(Interruptions)* ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go on.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, my second supplementary is: Why is no record being maintained by the Department for both television and All India Radio so far as news bulletins of Urdu, Sanskrit and Hindi languages are concerned?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, I have given the compilation of different political parties so far as English is concerned. But, Sir, centrally compiled form in different languages is not kept with us. But, in particular, the main news which is attracted, I have given the details about it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: This is not my question. I asked the question as to why a record is not being kept.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you not keeping an account of every one of these languages?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: For this reason, Sir: These news are thought to be—as we get letters of public and analysis of public reaction on these periods, the timing and the news bulletins—more appreciated by a vast number. That is why

these are kept ready , and when the question was asked we did it quickly. As you know, we have to answer 15 days before the question comes and, in fact, we get three days. After we get the notice, we we get three days, compile it and answer it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a good Minister. Otherwise I would have said, I am collecting the information and will be placing it on the Table of the House.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Minister has kindly given a detailed account of the compilation of the lines and the time devoted by AIR to political parties. I would like to know whether there are any specific guidelines to check the newsworthiness of what the opposition political parties and other parties, before it goes into the bulletins. It is not a question of time. I would like to know whether there are any specific guidelines in this matter.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Yes, Sir. We cannot lay down some do's and don'ts but we have 18 guidelines written down and those guidelines are followed.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, my question is very simple and small. In this reply some information about different political parties and the ruling party has been given. Now I would like to know how much time during 1985-86, particularly the total percentage of time of AIR and Doordarshan, has been consumed only for the projection of the Prime Minister.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: What is this question?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That record separately is not kept. Of course, Sir, one of the guidelines is, when the Prime Minister makes a statement, it is a policy matter for the whole nation, and we give time.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Since the question about the Prime Minister has been asked, whose every announcement is of great relevance to the nation and lays down national policies, I want to know how much time has been given to non-Congress Chief Ministers and how much time to Congress Chief Ministers because my impression is that the AIR and the Doordarshan are discriminating against Congress Chief Ministers.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, no such complaints has yet been received.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I want to know the figures.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, according to the statement, Opposition parties are getting more time and coverage...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Three times.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: . . . both on the radio and the television. You will agree with me that this is not very fair. I would like to know what the hon. Minister proposes to do to allot some more time to the ruling Congress Party.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the suggestion is well noted.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, if I may take it up from the point that Atal Bihariji has made, perhaps, with his cooperation we can divide the time in the proportion of the representation in the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know how much time is given between national and international news and how much between political and apolitical news.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: It is a separate question, Sir.

Freedom Fighters from Orissa getting Pension

*452. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters from Orissa who had applied for pension under the Swatantrata Senani Samman Scheme during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases sanctioned and rejected, respectively; and

(c) the number of widows of freedom fighters from Orissa to whom pensions have been granted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The last date prescribed for receipt of applications under the Samman Pension Scheme was 31-3-1982. Applications received thereafter were treated as time-barred. However, if in a case, evidence from official records i.e. Jail Certificate, Warrant of Arrest, Government orders etc. are produced, delay in such cases can be condoned and the applicant considered for grant of pension following the prescribed procedure. A total number of 776 applications were received from Orissa, after the due date. Only in a few cases, such evidence has been furnished. State Government's recommendations in these cases have, however, not been received except in one case. Pension in this recommended case has since been sanctioned. The other cases where evidence from official records is forthcoming will be examined on receipt of State Government's recommendatoin and after condoning the delay.

As regtrds grant of pension to the widows of freedom fighters, no separate record as to the number of widows who were sanctioned dependent pension, was maintained previously. However, every effort was made by the Government to ensure that the requests from widows for transfer of pension were attended to on priority basis. The grant of family pension has already been made automatic from September, 1983 onwards by incorporating the name of the dependent in the sanction letter. As regards pensions sanctioned before September, 1983, the freedom fighters have been advised through the Press, Accountants General and the State Governments more than once to file their nominations with the Accountant General. In cases where the freedom fighters could not, for any reasons, file their nominations to the Accountants General tnd direct requests are made by the widows to the Ministry for transfer of pensions in their names, expeditious action has been taken in such cases. Record of such sanctions is being maintained since 1985. According to this record, 77 widows of freedom fighters from Orissa have been granted pension during the period January, 1985 to November, 1986.

Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the dependents of the freedom fighters in getting the pension transferred in their names under the existing provision, the Government is now considering to authorise the State Government to entertain such requests and transfer the dependent pension, after due verification at their own level without referring the case to this Ministry.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government accepted in principle that the freedom fighters of the State should get both the Central and the State pensions simultaneously. If so, I want to know from the hon. Minister how many freedom fighters after getting the Central pension, have not received the State pension so far in the State of Orissa.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, so far as the State pensions are concerned, we are not concerned with them. Our Government only grants Central pension. So far as Orissa is concerned, we have given a large number of pensions. Now, today a total number of 3,789 freedom fighters of Orissa are getting the Central pensions. And, Sir, about whatever cases have been rejected, we are trying to review every geneuie case. Whatever genuine case of a freedom fighter is there, we are trying to review it. The hon. Members also must have felt that during the last many years many cases have been reviewed and pensions have been given.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My second supplementary relates to parts (b) and (c) of the question. The question is whether the Government would reconsider the application of freedom fighters which were rejected on flimsy grounds.

Sir, in this connection I would like to refer to the answer given today. Sir, my question was specific. What is the total number of widows of that State getting pension for the last five years. But in the answer it has been mentioned that 77 widows of freedom fighters from Orissa have been granted pension during the period from January, 1985 to November, 1986. That means, these 77 widows have been sanctioned pension in the last one year. But what about the last four years? That figure I wanted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants figures for the earlier period.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: In the statement also we have made it clear that 77 widow-dependants have got pension from January to November, 1986. We are keeping figures only after 1983. So, as far as figures up to 1983 are concerned, again we have to go into those figures and let the hon. Member know about them.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Even though the question is regarding the number of cases in Orissa, if you permit I would like to ask a question. My question is what is the total number of applications pending with the Government and by what time is the Government going to take a final decision on those applications? I am asking this question because about six months back the then Minister in charge of freedom fighters' pensions had given an assurance to the House that by 15th of August the Government will take a final decision on all the pending applications. If you permit I will ask this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is in general interest. It has been permitted.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: My question is how many applications are pending with the Government and by what time will he take a final decision on them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have information you can give.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We have already laid a statement on the Table, but I may state that the total number of cases that are still pending is 5,727. Sir, we are reviewing the cases as per your direction given on that day and all the genuine cases are being considered.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of certain cases where some people who are below the age of forty are getting the freedom fighters pension while the genuine freedom fighters are going from pillar to post to get pension for them.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: In many such cases which have come to our notice, pension has been suspended.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In this connection I may point out that some of the dependants of the freedom fighters, who have been allowed the benefit may be less than 40, but this has been allowed under the scheme of dependants of the freedom fighters.

डा० बापू कालदाते : सभापति महोदय, इसी प्रश्न के संदभ में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि गोआ के जिन लोगों ने आंदोलन में भाग लिया था उनको भी आपने अब इसी फ्रीडम फाइटर्ज की केटेगरी में लिया है। इस तरह से जो संख्या आपके पास फ्रीडम फाइटर्ज की है उस में बढ़ोतरी हो जायेगी। हम को यह चाहिये कि सारे का सारा काम जिसे 15 अगस्त तक पूरा करने का आश्वासन आपने दिया था वह अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है लेकिन यह बहुत जरूरी है। इस काम को एक दफा पूरा किया जाए तो क्या आप यह बता सकते हैं कि किस समय तक सारा काम आप पूरा करेंगे।

श्री बूटा सिंह : सभापति जी, जैसे कि माननीय सदस्य ने खुद माना है कि जितने पेंडिंग केसेज थे उनके लिए एक स्पेशन सेल बना कर सब को स्क्रूटीनाइज कर के सबके लिए अंतिम निर्णय दे दिया गया है और सभी राज्य सरकारों को लिख दिया है कि जो केसेज रिजेक्ट हो चुके हैं उनको नहीं मानना चाहिये। फिर भी यदि कोई सही सबूत पेश कर सकता है और सही सबूत हमें मिल सकता है तो हम उस केस को रिओपन करने के लिए तैयार है। We are not treating it in a bureaucratic manner.

ऐसा कहना कि अमुक समय के पहले पहले हम सबको को निपटा देंगे मुश्किल होगा । It is a continuing process. I need the co-operation of the State Governments to complete the process. We do not want to delay the cases. We have already delayed them beyond doubt.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In the last session when the Question was put about the number of applications pending relating to my State, the hon. Minister had said about seven applications are pending, but in the information which I gathered from the Freedom Fighters' Association, more than 2,000 applications are pending for consideration by the Central Government. Therefore, I would like to know what actually is the number of pending applications from Pondicherry.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We gave the figures of those which are actually pending with us. But then there are cases which are again recommended by the State Governments and the Screening Committees. We are again getting those applications and are reviewing those applications also.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: With your permission, I would like to thank the hon. Minister, because as a result of my raising the issue at the last Question Hour two weeks ago, the pension has been granted. Not only that, it has been granted to various other similar cases which were pending with the Delhi Administartion. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister. I would also like to convey the appreciation of the Freedom Fighters' Association of Delhi which has requested me to convey it to him. So, I must thank the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The compliment is accepted.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय गृह मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन्. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Liberalised pensions for the Territorial Army Pensioners

*441. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether liberalised pensions to the Territorial Army Pensioners have been finalised so far; if so, the number of cases finalised and if not, the number of cases pending for finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): A total of 40 officers, 167 JCOs and 363 ORs of the Territorial Army are eligible for pension under the Liberalised Pension Scheme.

Of these, 34 cases of officers have been finalised and in 76 cases of JCOs and 161 ORs, provisional pension has been sanctioned. Remaining cases are in various stages of finalisation.

Revision of Salary of the MCD Employees

*450. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has recently requested the Union Home Ministry to amend the relevant law and the relevant rules for an upward revision of the salary of its employees; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): No amendment of law or the rules is necessary to be carried out by the Union Government for upward revision of the salary of the employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and no request for this purpose has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

बलात्कार के मामलों के विचारण के लिए महिला न्यायाधीशों वाले न्यायालय

*453. **श्री राम चन्द्र विकल :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महिलाओं के साथ बलात्कार तथा उनके प्रति किये जाने वाले अन्य अपराधों के विचारण के लिये महिला न्यायाधीशों वाले न्यायालयों की स्थापना की जा रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दिल्ली में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान न्यायालयों में विचारित ऐसे अपराधों के मामलों की संख्या कितनी है ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) अपराधों के विचारण के लिए न्यायालयों की स्थापना करना और इन न्यायालयों की अध्यक्षता करने के लिए न्यायिक अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करना राज्य सरकारों और संबंधित उच्च न्यायालयों के क्षेत्राधिकार के अंतर्गत आता है। केन्द्र में ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

(ख) वर्ष 1983, 1984, 1985 और अक्तूबर 1986 तक दर्ज किए गए विभिन्न अपराधों के संबंध में उपलब्ध सूचना का विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है । अपराधों के विचारण के संबंध में सूचना अपराधवार नहीं रखी जाती है ।

विवरण

वर्ष 1983, 1984, 1985 और अक्तूबर, 1986 तक के दौरान दिल्ली संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में दर्ज किए महिलाओं पर अपराधों की संख्या का विवरण ।

अपराध	1983	1984	1985	अक्तूबर, 1986 तक	जोड़
बलात्कार	78	85	83	72	318
शीलभंग	81	109	90	80	359
जंजीर छीनना	51	68	99	86	304
महिलाओं और लड़कियों का अपहरण	564	843	734	449	2590
महिलाओं से छेड़छाड़	360	185	52	587	1184
दहेज के कारण हुई मौतें	42	30	33	39	144
जोड़	1176	1319	1091	1313	4899

Amendment to Prevention of Corruption Act

*454. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act in such a manner as to enable Government to confiscate ill-gotten wealth from even third parties benami holders; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been third arties benami holders; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 contains provisions for attachment of property procured through ill-gotten means as also for attachment of property of malafide transferees. Thus the necessary powers are already available. However, the question of introducing a comprehensive Prevention of Corruption Bill to make the provisions on the existing anti-corruption laws more effective is under consideration.

Indo-US agreement for modernisation of Telecommunications in India

*455. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accord has recently been signed between Indian and the US for American participation in India's telecommunications expansion and modernisaton; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Journalists arrested and charged by Government after operation "Blue Star"

*456. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of journalists arrested and charged by Government in connection with Punjab problem since peration Blue Star;

(b) the name of the journalist involved and details of the action taken thereof;

(c) the names of the newspaper/weeklies|magazines against whom action has been initiated by the Government; and

(d) details of each case and whether any appeal|request was received to drop the action, if so, details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Park demand for F-16's ad AWACS from US

*457. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's latest demand to the US for the supply of another five squadrons of F-16 fighter planes, in addition to the early warning radar planes, which would give tremendous boost to Pakistan's air force striking power;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical analysis of Pakistan's piling up of highly sophisticated arms and ammunition, besides building up air striking power, thus posing serious threat to the security of the country and causing military imbalance in the sub-continent;

(c) what is India's percentage of defence expenditure of its GNP as compared

with the defence expenditure in Pakistan, China and other neighbouring countries and how does it relate to the country's needs, keeping in view the developments in the neighbouring countries; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to maintain balance of military power to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Government have seen media reports in this regard.

(b) and (d) Government keep a constant watch on acquisition of major defence equipment by neighbouring countries, which has a bearing on our security, with a view to take appropriate measures for full defence preparedness. It will not be in the public interest to disclose details of the various steps taken by Government in this regard.

(c) According to the information contained in the Military Balance published by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, the defence expenditure as a percentage of the GNP of the following neighbouring countries, during 1983, was as under:—

Pakistan	—	6.9 per cent
Bangladesh	—	2 per cent
Indonesia	—	3.5 per cent
Nepal	—	1.40 per cent

Relating figures for China are, however, not available. The relevant figures for India are 3.4 per cent for 1983 & 3.8 per cent for 1985-86. The level of defence expenditure in India reflects a reasonable balance between our defence and development needs.

Doordarshan programmes on religious/ ideological issues

*458. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total time the Doordarshan had devoted to religious programmes on the National Network during 1985 and 1986 till date; and

(b) whether Government have any policy or increasing the number of programmes on issues pertaining to secularism and socialism, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A total duration of 15 hours 48 minutes in 1985, and 9 hours 27 minutes upto end of November, 1986 have been devoted to programmes on religious festivals telecast on the National network including Delhi and relay transmitters.

(b) In keeping with the principles of socialism and secularism enshrined in the Constitution, Doordarshan is already telecasting adequate number of programmes on these subjects. Similarly all the important festivals of the various denominations and also programmes designed to benefit all sections of society, especially weaker sections are telecast.

International convention of civil and political rights

*459. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ratified the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and how they envisage 'freedom of information'; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to grant such freedom of information to Indian citizens?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) India has acceded to the International Convention Civil and Political Right with certain reservations necessitated by our Constitutional and legal systems.

In India, the policies and decisions of the executive are under constant and vigilant scrutiny by Parliament and information is furnished to Parliament in various forms in accordance with the rules of procedure and conduct of business. The existing arrangements under which there is access of official information are considered adequate.

Use of computer to monitor whereasbouts of foreigners

*460. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make use of a computer to monitor the whereabouts of foreigners staying in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether similar arrangements are also proposed to be made at other metropolitan cities in India to monitor the whereabouts of foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The registration record of foreigners in Delhi has been computerised.

(c) These arrangements have not been extended to the other Metropolitan Cities as yet.

Centrally sponsored industrial projects for West Bengal

@3016. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the new centrally sponsored industrial projects for West Bengal included in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the particulars of the projects proposed by the West Bengal Government for implementation during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the particulars of the projects proposed by the West Bengal Government and approved by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Seventh Five Year Plan includes under Village and Small Industries sector an intensive sericulture development project in West Bengal. This centrally sponsored project is estimated to cost Rs. 9.66 crores over a period of 5 years. Benefits from three new centrally sponsored schemes under the handloom sector viz; thrift fund scheme, workshed cum houses for handloom weavers and collection of Statistics, would also flow to the State of West Bengal alongwith other States.

There are no centrally sponsored schemes in the large & medium industries in the Central sector. However, a list of central industrial projects/schemes located in West Bengal, alongwith the Seventh Plan outlays is given in the enclosed statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) A list of the schemes proposed by the Government of West Bengal for inclusion in the Seventh Plan for the State Sector alongwith the Seventh Plan outlays is given in the enclosed statement-II (*See* below).

@Previously Unstarred Question 1985 transferred from the 24th November, 1986.

Statement—I

Seventh plan outlay for Central Industrial and Mineral Projects for West Bengal State

Rupees

Sl. No.	Name of Undertaking/Unit/Scheme	Seventh Plan (1985—90) outlay
1	2	3
1.	*Durgapur Steel Plant*	*688·03*
	(a) Capitive Power Plant	28·03
	(b) Additions, modifications, replacement, renewals, township etc.	200·00
	(c) Modernisation Programme (New Scheme)	460·00
2.	*Alloy Steel Plant*	*94·23*
	(a) Expansion Stages I & II	66·23
	(b) Additions, modifications, replacements, renewals, township etc.	28·00
3.	*Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.*	*151·65*
	(a) No. 10, Coke Oven Battery complex	1·77
	(b) No. 5, Coke Oven Battery complex	37·88
	(c) Additions, modifications, township etc.	87·00
	(d) New Scheme s (Modernisation etc.)	25·00
4.	Biecco Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	0·10
5.	Bridge Roof & Co. Ltd.	15·00
6.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	3·61
7.	*Hindustan Fertilizer Co. Durgapur & Haldia*	*73·68*
	(a) Captive Power Plant, Durgapur	2·14
	(b) Haldia Project	41·98
	(c) Ammonia, Storage Facilities	1·52
	(d) Captive Power Plant, Haldia	2·64
	(e) Revamping, Durgapur	20·00
	(f) Replacements, Renewals, Durgapur	5·40
	(g) Grants to HFC for fertilizers Division Prog.	9·00
	(h) Grants under Indo-EEC Fertilizer Division Programme.	3·00
8.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	3·00
9.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	5·00

1	2	3
10.	Smith Stainstreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	3·00
	Engineering Unit (Public Enterprises)	*179·52*
11.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	3·50
12.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	13·00
13.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	39·22
14.	Jessop & Co. Ltd. Calcutta	11·00
15.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corp.	8·80
16.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	4·00
17.	Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd.	4·00
18.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engg. Ltd.	7·00
19.	Tyre Corp. of India, Kalyani	30·00
20.	Bharat Opthalmic Glass Co.	14·00
21.	Cement Corp. of India—Jt. Venture	2·00
22.	Hindustan Cables	6·00
23.	National Instruments Ltd.	5·00
24.	Cycle Corp. of India	7·00
25.	Andrew Yule & Co.	25·00
	Ship Building & Repairs	*21·00*
26.	Modernisation of Ship Repair facilities at Calcutta Port	3·75
27.	Ship Repair & dredger facilities at Calcutta Port (New Scheme)	17.25
28.	Indian Govt. Mint, Calcutta	5·44
29.	Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corp. Ltd.	3·50
30.	Tea Trading Corp. Calcutta	1·00
31.	Export Promotion Zone (Falta)	4·79
32.	Export Promotion Zone (Expansion)	2·60
33.	National Jute Corp. (Modernisation, Labour Rationalisation)	8·00
34.	West Bengal National Test House, Calcutta	6.75
	TOTAL	*1281·90*

Statement II

Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) State : WEST BENGAL

Outlay for Large & Medium Industries, Mining and Village & Small Industries Sectors

Rs. crores

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Unit/Undertaking	Seventh Plan outlay	
		Proposed by State Govt.	Agreed Outlay
1	2	3	4
A.	LARGE & MEDIUM INDUSTRIES		
1	Banking Company		
2	Investment in W.B. Financial Corp.	950·00	900·00
3	Loan to W.B. Financial Corp.		
4.	Grants to W.B. Financial Corp. for running Entrepreneurs Assistance Cell		
5	West Bengal Industrial Dev. Corp.	7370·00	5000·00
6	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corp.	5000·00	5000·00
7	W.B. Pharmaceutical & Tech Dev. Corp.	500·00	400·00
8	West Bengal Sugar Industries Dev. Corp.	200.00	170·00
9	W.B. Tea Development Corp.	300·00	275·00
10	W.B. Industrial Infrastructural Development Corp.	1500·00	1000·00
11	Haldia Petro-Chemicals	100·00	100·00
12	Falta Export Processing zone	1760·00	1500·00
13	Exhibition Complex	50·00	40·00
14	Directorate of Cinchona	400·00	300·00
15	Oriental Gas Co.	2520·00	1050·00
16	Other Projects		
17	Public Undertakings	3919·00	3415·00
18.	Industrial Reconstruction	2500·00	2200·00
	TOTAL (Large & Medium Industries)	*27069·00*	*21600·00*
B.	MINING & MINERALS	1097·00	800·00
C.	VILLAGE & SMALL INDUSTRIES		
1	Small Scale Industries including Industrial Estates	52·75	27·75
2	Khadi & Village Industries	5·50	3·00
3	Handloom Industry	50·00	32·00
4	Sericulture	35·00	24·00
5	Handicrafts	5·65	3·00
6	Coir	0·55	0·25
	TOTAL (VSI)	*149·65*	*90·00*
	GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)	*28315·65*	*22490·00*

Policing of Railways

3017. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that several High Power Committees have agreed that the present system of policing on the railways by the State Government's in their States' territory totally failed to prevent and detect pilferage of the railway properties and looting of passengers and their belongings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government railway police lack in technical knowledge of investigation; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government, on the whole issue and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railway Reforms Committee were of the view that problems of Government Railway Police are its development on the 'Provincial System' and lack of modernisation.

(c) Government Railway Police, which is under State Government provides escorts on fast/superfast/Mail/Express trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force which is under Department of Railway also assists Government Railway Police in this task.

The Central Government is providing financial assistance for modernisation of police forces in the States.

Recruitments in the ArmedForces

3018. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the manner of recruitments in the armed forces;

(b) whether it has any bearing upon the status of force as an armed force of the Union; and

(c) in what manner recruitments in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Central Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force are made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The manner of recruitment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Cenral Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force is explained in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 106) In keeping with the importance of the Armed Forces, detailed physical and medical examination is conducted besides adhering to requisite educational standards in making selections for recruitment in the Armed Forces.

Deciding Factor for Armed Force of the Union

3019. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what the various tests which have been laid down for application to any organisation for treating any force as an Armed Force of the Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): According to the Supreme Court, the expression "Armed Forces of the Union" must be given its ordinary meaning and would not be limited to the Military, Naval and Air Force. Any other force constituted as an Armed Force would be included. Consequently, any force of the Union which has been

declared as an Armed Force by the Act by which it is created would be one such Armed Force.

People asked to prove citzenship in Assam

3020. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been asked to prove their citizenship in Assam till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what was the criteria laid down by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that in the names of foreigner, the people of Assam belonging to minority communities are being harassed; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect them from further harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Under Section 6A(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 persons of Indian origin who arrived in State of Assam before 1st January, 1966 and who have been ordinarily resident in Assam since the dates of their entry shall be deemed to be the citizens of India from 1st January, 1966.

Persons or Indian origin who came to Assam on or after 1st January, 1966 but before 25th March, 1971 and have been ordinarily resident in Assam since then and have been detected as foreigners are covered by Section 6A(3) and have to register themselves with the registering authority. Cases of such persons have to be referred for the opinion of the Tribunal as regards their status. As per imformation received from the Government of Assam, upto the end of June; 1986; in such cases 16,757 enquiries were initiated and out of these 678 enquiries had been completed and referred to the Foreigners Tribunals.

(c) and (d) There have been complaints of large scale harassment of minorities in the name of detection. Central Government have also received reports of indiscriminate issue of notices by police in Cachar and Karimganj districts including to some members of well known families residing for generations asking them to prove their citizenship. These complaints/ reports have been referred to the State Government for appropriate remedial action.

Construction of the Post Office building in Mangaldai, Assam

3021. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had purchased a plot of ten bighas at the cost of Rs. 3 lakhs 40 thousands at Mangaldai in Assam for construction of a post office building;

(b) whether construction of the said building had not been taken up till October, 1986, and even the wall around the plot gives way due to defective construction; and

(c) whether officers from the Head Office of the Postal circle pay regular visits to the site but have failed to do anything in this regard even after the lapse of more than three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. A plot of land measuring ten bighas was purchased from Government of Assam at Mangaldai in May, 1985 at a cost of Rs 3,39,067.50.

(b) and (c) Brick work for the boundary wall has been completed. RCC pillars and barbed wire are under construction.